

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dear members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

My name is Patricia Alvarenga , I am a member of the Hartford Deportation Defense. I have lived in Hartford with my family for 5 years. I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS because we need HUSKY health insurance for our children and for us.

Of our family, only my youngest son has access to health insurance because he was born here. My oldest son is 12 years old and has no health insurance. That's very difficult for us because in order for us to get medical care, you have to have money. For the dentist, for the pediatrician, all his medications. We only go to the doctor for the basics because we can't be going to the doctor so that the bill then arrives, and the cost is based on what they do to you.

Two years ago I had to have emergency appendix surgery. To this day I still get a bill for \$16,000. I endured the pain for 3 days because I didn't want to go to the hospital. And that's why I had to have emergency surgery. If I have any pain I can't go to the doctor, because how are we going to pay such a huge amount? Right now they told me that I have kidney stones and I have not been able to go to the doctor because I don't have insurance and that is the first thing they ask for. I also have spinal problems that I can't fix. I can't get pills for the pain, nor treatment to improve the problem. Sometimes I can't walk because of the pain.

Members of the committee, we ask you to support the bill S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS because I am worried that my son will fall, or something like what happened to me will happen to him and I will not be able to take care of him because of the lack of insurance.

Thank you for your time,
Patricia Alvarenga